

seemed to be natural qualities. "Piece of cake," he would say to someone who felt that a task was too great. "Hang in there."

Born and raised in New York, he was ordained a priest in the Pallotines of the Immaculate Conception Province in Brooklyn, NY in 1969, seven years after entering the order. He served as chaplain and teacher of religion at Bishop Eustace Preparatory School in Pensauken, NJ, in 1969. Father Rusty came to Baltimore in the 1970's, serving as vocation director and novice master for his order. He also was the director of the Pallotine Seminary in Hyattsville, MD, and he also served for a time as a Provincial Superior of the Pallotine Fathers.

Cardinal William Keeler, Archbishop of Baltimore, called him "a truly great pastoral leader. He spoke to the people in a way which was at once witty and humorous and also quite profound." Reflecting on his avid reading, the Cardinal added, "If I had to name one person who was knowledgeable about the Bible, who was in tune with today's current problems and was compassionate, it was Father Rusty."

Rev. Peter Sticco, SAC, the Pallotine Provincial at the time, told the mourners in his eulogy, "He was your pastor, he was your hero, he was your friend."

The Rev. Oreste Pandola, SAC, is a worthy recipient and exemplifies the great spirit of Thomas D'Alesandro, Jr. in whose name this award is presented.

IN HONOR OF GEORGE AND HELEN
DUDAS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the anniversary of the marriage of George and Helen Dudas fifty years ago, May 22, 1948. These two people truly exemplify a bond that can stand the test of time.

George and Helen Dudas entered the covenant of marriage at a time when the future was uncertain. World War II had just concluded, an economic boom was prevailing over the nation, and two young persons chose to take the first step on a long and successful life together. Their marriage saw many events in its fifty years, both joyous and challenging, that strengthened their bond and their love for each other.

George and Helen Dudas have clearly maintained a close bond with each other that has survived the test of half a century. Their marriage covenant, a beacon for all of us in these unstable times, exhibits a true love for each other and an ability to cope with the tests of marriage.

My fellow colleagues, join me in saluting George and Helen Dudas, two fine persons who have maintained a loving and devoted relationship for fifty years and we hope for fifty more.

THE DO-NOTHING CONGRESS

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, March 25, 1998, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

THE DO-NOTHING CONGRESS

1965, my first year in Congress, was extraordinary in its legislative accomplishments. In that year Congress enacted Medicare, aid to education, and voting rights legislation, just to name a few examples.

1998, my last year in Congress, has been extraordinary so far for the opposite reason. Each week, Congress wants to get out of town as quickly as it can, come back as late as possible and spend a minimal amount of time in session. The legislative schedule for this year calls for Congress to meet for fewer than 90 days—including Mondays and Fridays, when virtually no real business gets done. That's the shortest schedule in history. At this time, Congress has only about 50 serious legislative days remaining before it adjourns in October. The biggest bill enacted so far was the renaming of Washington National Airport in honor of Ronald Reagan.

Congress is doing a bare minimum to get by. Members feel that the less we do here the better. They want to go home more often to remind the public of their accomplishments—most notably, last year's balanced budget agreement—and want to avoid the high-profile errors of the recent past, like the government shutdowns in 1995 and 1996 and the delay in passing a disaster relief bill for flood victims last year.

So far, the "recess strategy" employed by the congressional leadership seems to be working. For the first time in 25 years, a majority of Americans approves of the way Congress is doing its job. Congress, one of the most criticized institutions in America, has rarely gotten above a 40% job approval rating in recent years. Today it's at 56%. The standing joke here is that Congress is never more popular than when it is in recess. There isn't any doubt that the nation's soaring economy and the mellow political mood in the country have contributed to these high ratings, but it's also true that voters are pleased with the balanced budget agreement and this year's anticipated budget surplus, and those two achievements will certainly define this 105th Congress. When people feel better about the performance of government it helps everybody in the government.

OUTLOOK

Much of the remaining time is going to be taken up with measures that simply have to be passed, like the budget and the appropriation bills, and very popular legislation, like the highway bill.

The parties are at loggerheads over a long list of major issues including a minimum wage increase, education initiatives, campaign finance reform, Medicare expansion, tax policy, and the terms of any new funding for the United Nations and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). In addition, some of the legislative possibilities have already been foreclosed. There will not be a campaign finance bill this year, must to my distress. It is unlikely there will be a significant environmental legislation, and it's beginning to look now as if we will not address the long-term problems of financing Social Security and Medicare. Those items will not be taken up until the next Congress, if then. The tobacco legislation is very much in doubt and a great deal of work needs to be

done on a code of conduct for the managed care industry and increased support for child care.

All of which is not to say that there aren't any high-stakes battles ahead in the remainder of the legislative year. Education will be one. Members of Congress are very much aware that across the country parents and business leaders want more done to improve the quality of education. Congress has before it competing proposals, including more funding for repairing and modernizing schools, increasing the number of teachers, providing more money directly to states through block grants, tax-free savings accounts, voucher programs, and additional money for teacher education. Some significant education legislation is a real possibility in this Congress.

There is strong interest in taxes. There is talk of a flat tax or a national sales tax or eliminating the current tax code, and, of course, a long list of tax cut proposals. But it is quite clear that Congress will not enact comprehensive tax reform this year.

Expanding health care coverage for those approaching retirement age and regulating HMOs will certainly be seriously considered, as will child care initiatives. There is also a lot of concern in Congress about values. Many bills have been introduced to address this concern, including bills to crack down on drunk driving, to discourage smoking, to ban online gambling, and to restrict access to pornography on the Internet. The values concern is also reflected in debates on re-vamping the bankruptcy laws and even on providing new money for the IMF.

There is, of course, a lot of debate on what to do about a possible federal budget surplus. Some want to return the money to the taxpayers, others want to spend the money on highways and bridges, others want to put the money toward Social Security reform.

CONCLUSION

Members frequently comment that the populist anger that dominated the political environment in the early 1990s is on the wane. We do not construe that as being a newfound, overwhelming respect for Washington, but it does reflect contentment with the status of the economy and a growing feeling that politics is irrelevant to the lives of most people. Public approval of Congress is hardly sky high but it has been consistently higher in 1997 and 1998 than at most times in the previous decades.

One of the positive things about the present mood is that Congress is focusing more on governance rather than simply rhetoric, which marked, for example, much of the early 1995 period. I really do not think the American people are telling us to do nothing. I think they want us to focus on the areas that are very tangible to them: health care, education, child care. What they are telling us is to work together and to avoid producing bad legislation.

This Congress is not going to make any big waves. But Congress can do a lot in a short time when it wants to, and I would expect the pace of activity in Congress to pick up in the next months.

HONORING ROSA AND CARLOS DE
LA CRUZ

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, Cuban patriot José Martí said: "Talent is a gift that brings with it an obligation to serve the world,

and not ourselves, for it is not of our making." I would like to recognize Carlos and Rosa de la Cruz for giving of themselves to the betterment of the community and utilizing their talents to help those in our community who have been less fortunate. I am pleased to congratulate the de la Cruz' for having recently been honored with the Simon Wiesenthal Award for Community Service.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center recognizes South Florida residents who have exhibited a spirit of true commitment and leadership in their community. After having been forced to flee communist aggression in Cuba in 1960, the de la Cruz' moved around the country, finally settling in Miami in 1975. Since then they have dedicated their efforts to improving the accessibility and quality of educational and social services available to our South Florida youth, as well as bringing awareness and appreciation for the arts.

While dedicating tremendous time and effort to our community's youth, they are also successful business owners. As board members for various foundations, they have also contributed to furthering the work of such wonderful institutions as the Dade Community Foundation, the Performing Arts Foundation of Greater Miami, and the United Way where they were honored with the 1997 Alexis de Tocqueville Award for community service. They have been an inspiring force in improving the quality of life for many South Florida residents.

HONORING THE HUFFINGTON CENTER ON AGING AT BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Roy M. and Phyllis Gough Huffington Center on Aging at Baylor College of Medicine as the center celebrates its tenth anniversary on April 7, 1998. The anniversary celebration will highlight the breakthrough research on aging conducted by the Center's internationally renowned scientists, as well as the contributions that older Americans can and do make throughout their lives.

The Huffington Center on Aging is committed to addressing the needs of an aging population by providing medical education and training, conducting basic and clinical science research, and delivering health care through Baylor College of Medicine-affiliated hospitals and other institutions. In just 10 years, the Center has grown to national and international stature in all of these areas, becoming one of the premier centers on aging in the world.

The Center's history dates to 1980, when Robert J. Luchi, M.D., current Director of the Huffington Center on Aging, established a Geriatric Evaluation Unit at the Houston Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC), a Baylor-affiliated institution. As needs grew, the program and staff increased with support from the VAMC and Baylor's Department of Medicine. In early 1987, Baylor College of Medicine committed funds to create the Baylor Program in Aging, and the National Institute on Aging awarded a Geriatric Leadership Academic Award to Dr. Luchi as principal investigator

and James R. Smith, Ph.D., as co-principal investigator. In 1988, the Honorable Roy M. and Phyllis Gough Huffington endowed the program to establish the Roy M. and Phyllis Gough Huffington Center on Aging.

The Center facilitates and coordinates interdepartmental research and initiates its own research studies in areas including cell and molecular biology of aging, adrenal cell biology, aging of the skin, control of gene expression in cellular senescence, the aging cardiovascular system, health care outcomes research, and ethical issues in acute and long-term care settings.

The Center's educational opportunities include courses and seminars in the basic and clinical sciences for clinical practitioners, students, trainees, faculty, staff, and health professionals, as well as continuing medical education courses. The Center sponsors courses for medical students, geriatric medicine clinical rotations for medical residents, and an accredited Geriatric Fellowship Training Program.

Clinical faculty and trainees provide patient care to older persons through the Geriatric Medicine Associates of Baylor College of Medicine at Smith Tower and the Methodist Hospital; the Houston Veterans Affairs Medical Center; and several hospital and community long-term care facilities.

During its short history, the Huffington Center on Aging has produced some important research breakthroughs. Center researchers cloned a gene critical for control of cell proliferation, creating opportunities for treating certain conditions associated with aging, including cancer. The Center's computer experts and faculty developed a hypertext module for geriatric education of health professionals that has been nationally judged the most wanted new education tool in geriatrics. The Center has also been widely praised for creating one of the most successful community programs on health issues of importance to older women.

For its many successes, the Huffington Center on Aging has been named a national Center of Excellence in Geriatrics by the John A. Hartford Foundation, Inc., of New York. As such, the Huffington Center on Aging has the mandate to train the future national leaders in geriatrics and gerontology. Baylor College of Medicine has committed substantial additional resources to the Center and the Huffington family and other supporters of the Center continue to be generous in their support. As a result, the Center's educational programs embrace virtually all the health professions trained in the Texas Medical Center and allied institutions and extend widely throughout the state of Texas. The alliance between the Huffington Center and the Methodist Hospital is breaking new ground in the delivery of superb patient care to the elderly.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Huffington Center on Aging at Baylor College of Medicine for ten years of excellence and innovation in improving the quality of life for older people, and I look forward to even greater successes as they work to ensure healthier lives for older Americans in the 21st Century.

IN HONOR OF COMDR. RICHARD R. UZL, JR.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Commander Richard R. Uzl, Jr. for his years of devoted service to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of District 7 and to his country. Commander Uzl exemplifies the American spirit at the highest level.

A native Cleveland, Commander Uzl attended local schools and graduated from James F. Rhodes High School in January, 1963. Commander Uzl then made a crucial decision in his life: to serve in the armed forces of the United States. During a tumultuous time when the profession of serviceman was not exactly glamorous, Commander Uzl sacrificed his immediate future to serve his nation in its armed services. He joined the U.S. Air Force in February, 1963 and served four years in the Air Force until his discharge in 1967. He served as an aircraft mechanic, earning leadership position while serving in two world hotspots: Korea and Vietnam.

After leaving the Air Force, Commander Uzl chose to continue his education and earned two degrees from Applied Technology in Cleveland. However, Commander Uzl continued his association with our nation's armed services by becoming a charter member of "Old Brooklyn" VFW Post No. 10228 in 1988. Named Post Commander in 1991, Uzl worked his way through the ranks of County VFW offices, serving on numerous committees and administering the district Voice of Democracy program for patriotic youth. Currently, Commander Uzl is the District 7 Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

My fellow colleagues, join me in saluting a model American who has defended his country and continued Americanism and patriotism by serving with the VFW, Commander Richard R. Uzl, Jr.

SALUTING AMBASSADOR TO IRELAND JEAN KENNEDY SMITH

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 1998

Mr. KING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute our Ambassador to Ireland Jean Kennedy Smith. Ambassador Kennedy Smith has announced that she will be leaving Dublin this year, completing a remarkable diplomatic career in Ireland.

Under her leadership, the U.S. asserted its moral leadership and began to take an active role in the Irish peace process. Ambassador Jean Kennedy Smith deserves much of the credit for helping to bring about the best opportunity for a just and lasting peace in Ireland in more than 75 years.

Jean Kennedy Smith is beyond all doubt the most active, dynamic and effective U.S. Ambassador in our entire history of diplomatic relations with the Republic of Ireland. She will be missed and it will be extraordinarily difficult to fill her shoes. I am proud to have worked closely with Ambassador Kennedy Smith and even more to call her my friend.